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PRESS RELEASE

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DPSS SET TO LAUNCH UNPRECEDENTED PUBLIC AWARENESS EFFORT TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN THE COUNTY MOST VULNERABLE TO HUNGER

The number of homes lacking adequate food has more than tripled in the last four years

LOS ANGELES – The County's Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is putting the final touches on the May observance of "CalFresh Awareness Month," the most comprehensive and coordinated effort to increase access and participation in food assistance and reduce food insecurity in the second largest and most populated County in the nation.

At the **Tuesday, April 26** Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Michael Antonovich will lead the Board in announcing a series of community events and activities to bring public awareness to CalFresh – the supplemental nutrition food benefit formally known as Food Stamps. It has been estimated that only half of those eligible in L.A. County are reportedly receiving the benefits.

The month-long public awareness effort is a collaboration by DPSS, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), California Department of Social Services, and over 25 community partners to educate residents and reach those most vulnerable to hunger.

The partnership has brainstormed for months on a variety of strategies to heighten public awareness about the issue.

According to the USDA, the number of homes lacking adequate food has more than tripled in the last four years. As a result, the agency noted in its report on food insecurity that hunger negatively impacts the intellectual, physical, and emotional development of children.

The month-long outreach will include the “Your Benefits Now” Online Applications, an alternative to applying in person for much-needed assistance, and the release of television and radio PSAs featuring national civil rights advocate for the poor, Delores C. Huerta, and four-time WNBA champion, Tina Thompson of the Los Angeles Sparks.

The outreach will also include the strategic deployment of DPSS’ Health and Nutrition Mobile Office to farmers markets and non-traditional locations throughout the County.

“Now more than ever – to prevent hunger due to the current state of the economy – it’s our goal to increase the number of eligible L.A. County residents who need the assistance to take the next step and apply,” said DPSS Director Philip L. Browning.

“We hope this campaign shines a spotlight on the critical role CalFresh plays to help folks struggling to make ends meet keep nutritious food on their tables.”

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CALFRESH PROGRAM FACT SHEET

WHAT IS CALFRESH PROGRAM?

The new name for California's Food Stamp Program is "CalFresh." This name change is a result of a recent State law. The CalFresh Program is the cornerstone of the federal food assistance program. The purpose of this program is to promote and safeguard the health and well-being of low-income households by raising their levels of nutrition and increasing their food purchasing power.

In California, the monthly CalFresh benefit is transferred to the household's Golden State Advantage Card, known as Electronic Benefit Transfer card, and is issued when the household's CalFresh case is approved.

WHO CAN GET CALFRESH?

Individuals or households whose income is low enough and meet other eligibility factors, can get CalFresh benefits. Qualified immigrants may get CalFresh benefits. In California, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program recipients are not eligible for CalFresh.

HOW MUCH CALFRESH BENEFITS CAN A HOUSEHOLD RECEIVE?

The amount of CalFresh benefits depends on the household size and income. The less income a household receives, the more CalFresh benefits a household can get.

If a household has this many members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
And makes less than this each month	\$1,180	\$1,594	\$2,008	\$2,422	\$2,836	\$3,249	\$3,663	\$4,077
The household could get up to this much in benefits: *	\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1,052	\$1,202

* Actual amount depends on your case situation

ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOUSEHOLDS

The 130% gross income limit is not used to determine eligibility for households that contain an elderly and/or disabled member. Instead, the net monthly income limit (gross income minus applicable deductions) is used to determine eligibility.

RESOURCES

Effective February 1, 2011, resources such as money and property are no longer counted when determining CalFresh eligibility. If a household is applying for cash aid (CalWORKs, General Relief and CAPI) or Medi-Cal, resources will be counted for those programs.

APPLICATION PROCESSING AND EXPEDITED SERVICE

CalFresh applications are processed within 30 days. In emergency situations, a household may receive CalFresh benefits within three days of the date of their CalFresh applications. It is the Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) policy to issue expedited CalFresh benefits on the day of application, whenever possible. The household must meet specified conditions which would render the household's situation emergent (e.g., monthly gross income is less than \$150).

HOW MANY PERSONS ARE RECEIVING CALFRESH IN LOS ANGELES?

Currently, DPSS provides CalFresh benefits to nearly one million individuals in Los Angeles County.

HOW TO APPLY

Online at www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov, or in person at any Department of Public Social Services Office or contracted partner sites, in person at some schools, community events, and WIC offices, or by mail or fax.

For more information on CalFresh, visit us online at <http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/calfresh> or call 1(877) 597-4777.



**County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services**

**Number of CalFresh Beneficiaries
February 2011**

City	Persons	City	Persons	City	Persons
Agoura Hills	145	Hawaiian Gardens	1,813	Pasadena	11,750
Alhambra	4,190	Hawthorne	9,244	Pico Rivera	4,822
Arcadia	834	Hermosa Beach	73	Pomona	23,727
Artesia	716	Hidden Hills	6	Rancho Palos Verdes	146
Avalon	136	Huntington Park	8,442	Redondo Beach	868
Azusa	4,199	Industry	9	Rolling Hills	0
Baldwin Park	8,385	Inglewood	12,007	Rolling Hills Estates	28
Bell	5,060	Irwindale	104	Rosemead	5,107
Bell Gardens	6,523	La Canada-Flintridge	69	San Dimas	898
Bellflower	7,424	La Habra Heights	43	San Fernando	2,097
Beverly Hills	286	La Mirada	1,239	San Gabriel	2,154
Bradbury	6	La Puente	4,391	San Marino	17
Burbank	4,611	La Verne	919	Santa Clarita	6,030
Calabasas	174	Lakewood	2,920	Santa Fe Springs	1,201
Carson	5,224	Lancaster	25,219	Santa Monica	1,690
Cerritos	562	Lawndale	2,723	Sierra Madre	136
Claremont	829	Lomita	1,027	Signal Hill	899
Commerce	1,295	Long Beach	53,542	South El Monte	3,014
Compton	19,956	Los Angeles	410,884	South Gate	11,566
Covina	3,023	Lynwood	10,219	South Pasadena	386
Cudahy	4,655	Malibu	58	Temple City	1,048
Culver City	830	Manhattan Beach	95	Torrance	2,489
Diamond Bar	841	Maywood	3,908	Vernon	0
Downey	6,984	Monrovia	1,865	Walnut	293
Duarte	1,007	Montebello	5,491	West Covina	5,728
El Monte	23,669	Monterey Park	2,848	West Hollywood	540
El Segundo	157	Norwalk	9,771	Westlake Village	44
Gardena	4,393	Palmdale	20,400	Whittier	5,294
Glendale	18,903	Palos Verdes Estates	9	<i>Unincorporated Areas</i>	133,355
Glendora	1,517	Paramount	6,994	<i>Unassigned Number</i>	24,759
				Total	982,952



Enriching Lives
lacounty.gov

Total Population
County of Los Angeles
10,441,080

Total Population
Unincorporated Areas
County of Los Angeles
1,095,276

Los Angeles County makes up about 27 percent of the state's population.

Estimated Population of the 88 Cities in the County of Los Angeles

Cities	Population	Cities	Population
Agoura Hills	23,387	Lancaster	145,875
Alhambra	89,501	Lawndale	33,641
Arcadia	56,719	Lomita	21,015
Artesia	17,608	Long Beach	494,709
Avalon	3,559	Los Angeles	4,094,764
Azusa	49,207	Lynwood	73,295
Baldwin Park	81,604	Malibu	13,765
Bell	38,867	Manhattan Beach	36,773
Bellflower	77,312	Maywood	30,034
Bell Gardens	47,002	Monrovia	39,984
Beverly Hills	36,224	Montebello	65,781
Bradbury	963	Monterey Park	65,027
Burbank	108,469	Norwalk	109,817
Calabasas	23,788	Palmdale	152,622
Carson	98,047	Palos Verdes Estates	14,085
Cerritos	54,946	Paramount	57,989
Claremont	37,608	Pasadena	151,576
Commerce	13,581	Pico Rivera	66,967
Compton	99,769	Pomona	163,683
Covina	49,622	Rancho Palos Verdes	42,893
Cudahy	26,029	Redondo Beach	68,105
Culver City	40,722	Rolling Hills	1,974
Diamond Bar	61,019	Rolling Hills Estates	8,157
Downey	113,715	Rosemead	57,756
Duarte	23,124	San Dimas	36,946
El Monte	126,464	San Fernando	25,366
El Segundo	17,049	San Gabriel	42,984
Gardena	61,927	San Marino	13,415
Glendale	207,902	Santa Clarita	177,641
Glendora	52,830	Santa Fe Springs	17,929
Hawaiian Gardens	15,884	Santa Monica	92,703
Hawthorne	90,145	Sierra Madre	11,099
Hermosa Beach	19,599	Signal Hill	11,465
Hidden Hills	2,025	South El Monte	22,627
Huntington Park	64,219	South Gate	101,914
Industry	803	South Pasadena	25,881
Inglewood	119,053	Temple City	35,892
Irwindale	1,717	Torrance	149,717
La Canada Flintridge	21,261	Vernon	96
La Habra Heights	6,161	Walnut	32,659
La Mirada	50,015	West Covina	112,890
La Puente	43,355	West Hollywood	37,805
La Verne	34,051	Westlake Village	8,872
Lakewood	83,636	Whittier	87,128



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May 2, 2011

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**FORUM SET TO DISPEL MISPERCEPTIONS THAT APPLYING FOR
CALFRESH (FORMERLY KNOWN AS FOOD STAMPS) WILL IMPACT
A LEGAL IMMIGRANT'S PERMANENT U.S. RESIDENT STATUS**

Misinformation regarding CalFresh Program, eligibility, requirements, immigration consequences, and program regulations, is still common within communities

WHY: Misperceptions about the term “Public Charge” – used in immigration law for more than 100 years as a ground of inadmissibility and deportation, is one of the leading causes that keep eligible families and individuals from applying for CalFresh benefits.

The term describes a person (noncitizen) who is likely to become dependent on public benefits and who depends on benefits that provide cash-like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

However, receipt of certain public benefits does not necessarily make a noncitizen a “Public Charge.” The CalFresh Program is not considered a “Public Charge” program because it is not a “public cash assistance program for income maintenance,” but rather a supplementary, nutrition-based, food assistance program.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the number of homes lacking adequate food has more than tripled in the last four years.

WHAT: As part of the May observance of “CalFresh Awareness Month,” the director of the County’s Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) will join federal, state, and local officials for a forum to highlight the disturbing fact that families are not applying even though they are in need and are eligible.

WHO: DPSS Director Philip L. Browning; USDA – Western Region Food and Nutrition Services Regional Administrator, Allen Ng; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Los Angeles Field Office Director, John Ramirez; California Department of Social Services Deputy Director, Welfare to Work Division, Charr Lee Metsker; Huntington Park Mayor Ofelia Hernandez; and immigration attorneys and advocates representing community and faith-based organizations.

WHEN: **Wednesday, May 4, 2011 @ 10:30 A.M.**

WHERE: Salt Lake Park - Farmers' Market, 7120 Bissell St., Huntington Park, CA 90255

INFO: This media forum is designed to explain this issue in more detail, dispel myths, and reinforce the message that CalFresh is not a “public cash assistance program for income maintenance,” but rather, a supplementary, nutrition-based, food assistance program.

VISUALS: The back drop of the DPSS Health and Nutrition Mobile Office, which is strategically deployed to conduct outreach at community events farmers markets and non-traditional locations throughout the County.

Over 15 vendor booths selling fruits and vegetables and other food items, as part of the weekly Salt Lake Park Farmers' Market.

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